



Press Release

Lighting up homes: 3MW Power Plant project launched in rural Bihar

Barun, December 4: This small town, in the heart of Bihar, receives intermittent power, like many small towns scattered across India. Local businesses run on generators and the common man lives through the hot summers without any cooling options. But this is about to change! Barun is the selected site for a 3 MW power plant, which will generate electricity using solar energy in combination with biomass to ensure uninterrupted generation.

Speaking at the inauguration event of this project, Dr. Anshu Bharadwaj, Executive Director of CSTEP, one of the organisations involved in the design and development of this project said, “This is the first time that this technology is being used in India in a plant of this scale and our objective is to make this technology scalable so that it can be used across India.”

The land for this project, called SCOPEBIG, has been given by the Bihar State Power Transmission Company Limited to the consortium of organisations that will be developing this project, which is being funded by the European Union. Once the plant is up and running, it will be handed over to the Bihar State Power Generation Company Limited. In the meantime, not only will the project consortium construct and start power generation in the plant, it will also train a local workforce to run and maintain the plant.

“This technology uses clean energy, and better still, the components used in this plant, in both the Concentrated Solar Power (CSP) island and the biomass island will be completely indigenously manufactured,” said Dr. R.R. Sonde of Thermax Company Limited at the Project Inauguration Event in Barun.

The focus on developing the solar biomass hybrid technology is only one side of the coin. The other side includes the creation of viable business models and conducive policy frameworks. In order to spread the uptake of this technology, ensuring financial sustainability and policy support are two crucial aspects that power generation has to consider. Since, the final beneficiary of the SCOPEBIG plant will be the state power company, this project has from the beginning ensured the support of the government. On the other hand, as the project is starting off, plans of setting up biomass supply chains in the region are being put into action by the consortium.

SCOPEBIG, which is an abbreviation for Scalable CSP Optimised Power Plant Engineered with Biomass Integrated Gasification will be the first of its kind power plant in India. It is being funded by the European Union under the Indo European Renewable Energy Program. The organisations involved in the development of the project are Center for Study of Science Technology and Policy (CSTEP), Thermax, Bihar State Power Generation Company Limited (BSPGCL), Energy Centre of the Netherlands (EC) and National Centre for Scientific Research (France) (NCSR). It is envisaged that SCOPEBIG will promote sustainable and inclusive growth to develop hybrid solar thermal biomass technologies.



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Notes to the Editor:

Significance/Impact of the project:

- A first of its kind indigenised solar & biomass power plant
- Aims to achieve higher efficiency at lower scale capacity
- Demonstration for wider dissemination including models for high penetration
- Utilisation of medium solar resource zones for power generation with hybrid technologies
- Creating designs with high efficiency for India specifically (Solar field, Gasification)
- Use low cost solar collectors

About Center for Study of Science Technology and Policy (CSTEP)

About CSTEP: Center for Study of Science, Technology and Policy (CSTEP) is a not-for-profit research organisation incorporated in 2005 u/s 25 of The Companies Act, 1956. It was formed with the vision “to enrich the nation with technology-enabled policy options for equitable growth”. CSTEP aims to conduct rigorous, independent and interdisciplinary research on subjects relevant to India’s economic, social and technological growth and development. CSTEP undertakes multi-disciplinary policy research using science and technology as enablers in the areas of Energy, Climate Studies, Infrastructure, New Materials, and Security Studies. CSTEP is recognised as a Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation by the Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India. For more information on CSTEP, please visit www.cstep.in

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